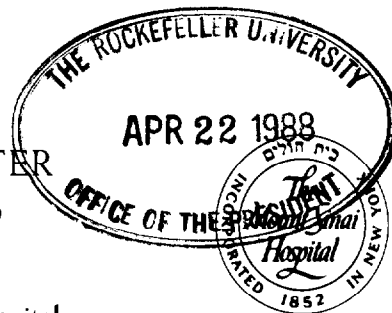




THE MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

ONE GUSTAVE L. LEVY PLACE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10029

Mount Sinai School of Medicine • The Mount Sinai Hospital



Brookdale Center for Molecular Biology

April 17, 1988

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you for conveying your willingness to submit our manuscript, entitled "Asbestos Fibers Mediate Transformation of Monkey Cells by Exogenous Plasmid DNA," by J.D. Appel, T.M. Fasy, D.S. Kohtz, J.D. Kohtz and E.M. Johnson, for consideration for publication in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

This manuscript documents, for the first time, the ability of asbestos to introduce exogenous DNA into cells in a state functional for both DNA replication and gene expression. There is currently no cogent mechanism relating asbestos-induced oncogenesis to changes in gene expression, let alone oncogene expression, at the level of DNA alteration. Although we do not claim that our results explain all aspects of asbestos oncogenesis, we do believe that they offer a promising new direction for molecular biological studies not only of asbestos, but of certain other mineral particulates as well.

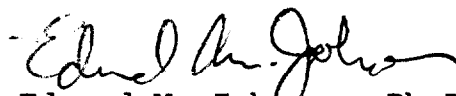
We respect your prerogative to send this manuscript to any reviewer, but we request that Dr. J. Carl Barrett of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences not be asked to review it. We believe that his opinion of our work could reflect his vigorous espousal of an alternate hypothesis for asbestos carcinogenesis.

The following Mount Sinai scientists have reviewed our manuscript:

Fred Gilbert, M.D. (a molecular biologist and cytogeneticist); Ming-Ta Hsu, Ph.D. (an expert in DNA replication and electron microscopic studies of DNA); Francis I. Smith, Ph.D. (a molecular biologist); Irving J. Selikoff, M.D. (a noted expert in asbestos carcinogenesis); Arthur M. Langer, Ph.D. (an asbestos minerologist); Yasunosuke Suzuki, M.D. (an experimental pathologist with numerous contributions to asbestos research); and Ronald E. Gordon, Ph.D. (a cell biologist-electron microscopist investigating lung injury).

Thank you very much for your attention to this manuscript. We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Edward M. Johnson", with a stylized, flowing script.

Edward M. Johnson, Ph.D.
Professor,
Brookdale Center for Molecular
Biology and Department of
Pathology, Mount Sinai School of
Medicine
Adjunct Professor,
The Rockefeller University